THE

LIFE OF

ANN MOORE,

OF TUTBURY, IN

STAFFORDSHIRE:

Giving an Account of

HER WONDERFUL EXISTENCE

WITHOUT FOOD,

For above THREE Years past:

Attested by many Physicians, and a great Number of Persons who have visited her.

With Observations and Reflections,

BY EDWARD ANDERSON.

Printed by J. Marshall.
Gateshead, and Old-Fesh Market, Newcastle.
Where may also be had, a large and excellent Collection of Songs, Ballads, Tales, Histories, &c.
Price One Penny.

LIFE OF ANN MOORE, &c.

THE case of Ann Moore is so wonderful, that it is not easy to convince those who live at a distance or have not seen her themselves, of the truth of this extraordinary occurrence. But the chain of evidential circumstances here collected, must put the matter out of every manner of doubt; for in regard to the truth of it, not an individual in the town and neighbourhood, as well as the vast numbers who have visited her, remains unsatisfied; and it is at this time an undeniable fact, that challenges disproof from all the world, and may therefore be considered one of the greatest wonders of the age.

When it was first made known that she existed without food, it was discredited by most of her neighbours, and by all the medical men who visited her; and as the gentlemen of Tutbury were decidedly against her, she was left to the virulence of her wicked neighbours, who emptied their chamber-pots at her back door in the night, to make others believe it came from her, and that she eat food privately. They swore she was nothing but an hypocrite and an impostor,—that God would have nothing to do with such a vile character as she had been: and she was more persecuted on account of professing that God had changed her heart, than for

any other reaſon: ſhe bore all their angry expreſſions with humility, and owned they were all well merited by her former miſconduct. During the winter of 1807, ſhe remained in a moſt deplorable ſituation, labouring under the greateſt diſtreſs; ſhe had not even ſufficient clothes to cover her bed, or any fire to warm her room, which was extremely cold, the ſnow and rain beating through the roof upon her very bed; and the only friends ſhe had in the world were poor people, and unable to afford her any relief. But the Lord, who hears the cries of the diſtreſſed, heard her prayer, and delivered her out of all her troubles. Being in debt for rent, the Landlord wanted to get her out of his houſe; this was made known to the pariſh ſhe belonged, and the overſeer came with a cart to take her away, about 10 miles diſtant. One or two poor women cried out againſt it, and ſaid, in her weak ſtate ſhe could never bear the jolting of the cart; however, the Landlord would have her out, and a medical gentleman was conſulted, who ſaid ſhe might bear the removal. Had ſhe gone in the cart at that time, it might have cauſed her death, and the world would have heard no more of Ann Moore. But the Lord raiſed her up a friend, in the overſeer, Mr. Hardy, of Dracot, who ſaid he would pay the rent himſelf rather than run the riſk of her dying in his cart. The ill uſage ſhe met with, rendered it abſolutely neceſſary as an act of ſelf-defence, and ſhe expreſſed a wiſh, that ſuch an examination ſhould take place, as would ſatisfy every one, without a doubt, that ſhe did live without food. In conſequence of which, Dr. Taylor was ſent for from Lane end. She was then taken to the houſe of Mr. Jackſon, her landlord, a moſt decided objector to her veracity:

a watch was set over her and she was surrounded on every side. At the expiration of 40 hours, hand-bills were put up in most parts of Tutbury, announcing, that Ann Moore has taken no nourishment since Tuesday afternoon, and is constantly and faithfully watched; all persons are hereby challenged to disprove the fact, and may watch for themselves, during the further time which shall, by Medical Consultation, be determined on to establish the same. —By this means there was no want of people to watch. The first watch began to sit on the 13th. of Sept. 1808, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The 27th. of Sept. was the fifteenth day, when all the disbelievers of her living without food, gave up the point: and on the 29th. she was removed to her own house, better in health than when the examination first began. During the first 4 days, she certainly took nothing except four ounces of water, the remaining 12 days she took neither meat nor drink, nor hath taken any from that time to this, July 1810. The attempt to swallow gives her great pain, from, as she supposes, the wind in her stomach stopping its passage; she has no appetite or inclination to eat or drink; she generally sits erect when conversing or reading; her legs and thighs are contracted under her, she feels in them a sensation of heat and cold but cannot move them without the help of her hands; she can use her hands and arms like any other person, and looks remarkably well in the face: her arms, as far as her elbows are not at all shrunk, but appear like those of a person thin and healthy. Her appearance is like that of a lying in woman, about a fortnight after Child-birth, and no way similar to a person wasted by consumption: she is rather above the middle size, has a serene and heavenly countenance,

and appears to have been a handsome woman. Most people who go to see her make her a trifling present, by which means she has accumulated a considerable sum of money for her children. Post chaises and Gentlemen's carriages are seen at her door almost every day, except Sundays; and she has put up a notice in her window that no one should visit her on that day. Her picture has been drawn and is carried about as a show. She has had a considerable sum of money offered to go up to London for exhibition; but she refuses, and says, she wants nothing but to remain quiet at home and prepare for another and better world. She gradually decreases in strength, but her mental faculties are perfectly sound: indeed, she is a living miracle, and ought to stop the unbeliever's mouths, who so boldly affirm that miracles have ceased, because here is a case that proves their absurd notions to be false; all whoever see her will have the greatest reason to say, This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

Ann Moore was born at Roston, near Ashbourn, in Derbyshire, in 1761. Her father, William Pegg, was a labouring man. She went to service when young, and married, at the age of 27 years, to James Moore; it was called a forced match—she proving with child. laid it on him, and sooner than go to jail he married her, but always denied being the father of the child. On that account they could never agree, and soon parted; the child died, and she went to service again, and was house-keeper to a farmer at Alton, by whom she had two children, who are both living: with him she lived some time, in the midst of plenty; not a farmer's wife in the neighbourhood dressed more genteel; but this ended, as those connexions generally do—he wanted a new mistress, so turned her

adrift, with two children, and married a woman with property. Ann Moore then went to Tutbury, and endeavoured to earn a livelihood by batting cotton. In the dear times, about nine years ago, she was very much distressed, and sooner than see her children starve, she frequently lived without food for several days together: after that time she began to loose her appetite by degrees. In 1805 she attended a boy, who died a miserable object of a scrophulous complaint, and she thinks that considerably decreased her desire for food.

On the 4th of November, 1806, she was necessitated to give up her work: she had then lost all desire for food, or ability to take it. The amount of solid food she took from that time until the 17th of March following, was about a penny loaf a fortnight; her drink was generally tea, without either milk or sugar; at one time she tried to live on onion tea, but it did not agree with her.

She first took her bed, for a continuance, a fortnight after Easter Tuesday, 1807. On the 20th of May she attempted to swallow a piece of biscuit, which caused great pain and vomiting of blood. On the 7th of August, 1807, she had a stool, which was the last she ever had: after this she gradually diminished her liquids, and her evacuation by urine gradually decreased; the last was in March, 1809.

She has discontinued moistening her mouth with water since October, 1808, and yet has sufficient moisture in it for all the purposes of talking and comfort to herself. The long continuance of persons in her room who have taken the smallest quantity of spirits or malt liquor is unpleasant. She takes common snuff moderately; and does not dislike the smoke of tobacco: but fresh air is very agreeable,

and she keeps her window open at the foot of her bed the coldest night in winter.

The manner of her conversion is very remarkable. William Wright, one of her neighbours, having been warned in a dream, had foretold that he should die on a certain day. In the morning he was very well in health, but on the evening of that very day he died in a fit. The news so affected her, it caused her to reflect on her own alarming state; and was the principal means in the hand of God, of bringing her to true repentance.

A shilling pamphlet has been published, endeavouring to prove it a natural case, and that she lives upon the air; indeed, some people will believe the most ridiculous absurdities, rather than own that God has a hand in it: For my own part, I have seen and conversed with her, and I am persuaded in my own mind, that she is supported by the supernatural power of God. It is well known, that Voltaire, and many other philosophers in the last century, and many learned men of the present day, have endeavoured to turn all miracles and supernatural agency into mockery and contempt, indeed, some people who pretend to believe in the Bible, boldly affirm that miracles have ceased since the days of the Apostles: I met with one old woman who was so positive in this opinion, and that she could prove it from the Scriptures; she put on her spectacles and looked in the Bible some time, but could not find it. It was the settled belief of the early Fathers of the Church, that miracles would never cease: many people think that the peculiar power of the Lord, in supporting this woman without food, is the forerunner of some extraordinary event.——In a book, published by that pretended

prophetess, Johanna Southcott, Ann Moore is said to be a sign of three years famine in France: I would be far from persuading any one to superstition; but may not the Almighty God see it necessary, in this wicked age, by such instances, to fix upon the minds of mankind some signal impressions of his over-ruling power, and the truth of his sacred Gospel: shall we, frail mortals, presume to set limits to the Divine power, or dare to doubt his miraculous interference?

HER case is marvellous, all men must own;
By it the power of God is clearly shewn:
Doctors have tried to find, but never could,
How she has been supported without food.
Wondrous the cause, and fruitless to enquire—
Our wisest way, is humbly to admire.
What else is worth our care, but him to please,
Who can command such miracles as these.
Her case is far beyond all human skill:
'Tis of the Lord—according to his will;
And shews, that those who trust and serve the Lord,
Will find him true, according to his word:
That whilst the lamp of life holds out to burn,
The vilest sinner may again return.
Perhaps it is to let this nation know,
God sees our crimes, but still forbears the blow,
And calls to us, before his vengeance thunders,
And gives us warning thus, by signs and wonders.
When God intends great punishments to send,
He warns mankind, by signs, their lives to mend.

FINIS.